


April 7, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Renal Dialysis Facilities

FROM: 
Alan Samuels, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Conditions That Will Allow a Provider-wide Partial Exception to the Requirements of Regulation 61-97

Standards outlined in Section 405.B of Regulation 61-97, Standards for Licensing Renal Dialysis Facilities, require that "Telephone or verbal orders shall be signed and dated by the prescribing physician or designated physician(s) within 72 hours (a list of designated physician shall be available at the facility)."

In the interest of establishing reasonable standards which do not compromise the health and welfare of patients receiving treatment in renal dialysis facilities, it has been determined that an alternative standard will be allowed.

All renal dialysis facilities must meet either the standards outlined above, **OR**, as an alternative:

- A. A committee which will include representation by physicians treating patients at the facility, a pharmacist, and the Director of Nursing, shall identify and list categories of diagnostic and therapeutic orders (associated with any potential hazard to the patient) that must be authenticated by the prescriber within a limited time-frame; Schedule II controlled substances must be included. This list shall be maintained by the Director of Nursing and made available to all direct care staff.
- B. Verbal orders for those diagnostic/therapeutic categories designated by the committee shall be countersigned and dated by the prescriber or his/her designee within a time-frame determined by the committee and defined in the facility policy and procedures, but in no case more than three days after the order was given.

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- C. Verbal orders for all other diagnostic/therapeutic categories must be countersigned and dated by the prescriber or his/her designee within 14 days; policies and procedures will so indicate.

This exception applies to any renal dialysis facility licensed by this Department, and is a Class I standard. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department. The standard in Section 405.B of R61-97, or the provider-wide exception will be enforced by this Department.

If there are any questions, please call 803-737-7202.

AS:GM:db

cc Douglas E. Bryant
Alice Truluck
Div of Certification